TRENDS

A3275-2

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

Office of Information
and Public Affairs
1920 L Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036
(202) 835-9555

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, November 29, 1984 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended November 24 totaled an estimated 13.9 billion ton-miles, 3.0 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today. Both weeks included the Thanksgiving Day Holiday.

Cumulative traffic volume for the first 47 weeks of 1984 was an estimated 835.5 billion ton-miles, 11.1 percent higher than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended November 24 totaled 300,185, down 0.7 percent from last year, and 20.5 percent below the preceding non-holiday week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 8.7 percent in the West, down 11.3 percent in the East, and down 4.7 percent in the South.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1983, 14 of the 21 commodity groups declined. However, loadings of grain were up by 1,308 cars (5.6 percent) and motor vehicles and equipment increased by 1,291 cars (9.1 percent). All of the 21 commodity groups decreased from the preceding non-holiday week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended November 17 totaled 54,967 cars, up 11.6 percent from the corresponding week of 1983, and 89,656 trailers and/or containers, 0.1 percent lower than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 46 weeks of the year was 2,387,270 cars, 14.8 percent higher than last year, and 4,077,364 trailers and/or containers, up 12.7 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 11/24/84:

	Loadings in Week ended Nov. 24, 1984		Change from Corresponding Week 1983			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	24,724	I	1,308	5.6	D	6,352	25.7
Other farm products	4,132	I	394	10.5	D	1,370	33.2
Metallic ores	11,883	D	1,158	8.9	D	2,356	19.8
Coal	83,975	I	7	0.0	D	15,532	18.5
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	8,266	I	838	11.3	D	4,387	53.1
Nonmetallic minerals	7,041	D	1,278	15.4	D	3,651	51.9
Grain mill products	8,506	D	67	0.8	D	1,655	19.5
Food and kindred products	8,563	D	352	3.9	D	2,123	24.8
Primary forest products	9,226	D	1,324	12.5	D	4,313	46.7
Lumber and wood products except furniture	5,122	D	52	1.0	D	2,038	39.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	13,407	D	192	1.4	D	704	5.3
Chemicals and allied products	19,603	D	447	2.2	D	3,654	18.6
Petroleum products	3,706	I	109	3.0	D	1,170	31.6
Stone, clay and glass products	8,010	D	528	6.2	D	2,619	32.7
Coke	3,870	D	616	13.7	D	942	24.3
Metals and products	5,917	D	1,607	21.4	D	1,644	27.8
Motor vehicles and equipment	15,424	I	1,291	9.1	D	5,831	37.8
Waste and scrap materials	6,322	D	312	4.7	D	2,651	41.9
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	5,488	D	899	14.1	D	2,036	37.1
All other carloads	46,865	I	2,939	6.7	D	12,551	26.8
LCL traffic	135	D	41	23.3	D	43	31.9
Total Cars Loaded	300,185	D	1,987	0.7	D	77,622	20.5
Corresponding week of 1983	302,172						

	1984	1983	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (47 weeks)	18,481,863	17,100,693	I 8.1
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
46 weeks ended November 17	821.6	738.3	I 11.3
Week ended November 24	13.9	13.5	I 3.0
47 weeks cumulative	835.5	751.8	I 11.1

AARt-112984